

RAUNDS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

A. MCINNES

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Camb.)

1925.

TO THE RAUNDS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in giving you the Annual Report for 1925.

The estimated population of the district in 1925 was 3837. The rateable value is £16,110 7s. 6d., and the sum represented by a penny rate £45 5s.

In 1921 the population was 3761, made up of 1874 males and 1887 females. In the same year there were 907 structurally separated dwelling houses with 4,866 rooms, giving an average of 1·3 rooms per person. Among the Boroughs and Urban Districts of the county the room average is bettered only by Brackley, Daventry and Oundle. Of the people 93·4 per cent live in houses of 7 rooms or less and 48·1 per cent in houses of 5 rooms or less. The average size of families in houses of 7 rooms or less was 4·08, and in houses of 5 rooms or less 3·7. Of the total population 3·9 per cent live more than 2 persons to a room.

The last census showed that out of every 1,000 males and every 1,000 females over the age of 12 years, 509 males and 237 females were engaged in the making of textiles and articles of dress. By far the chief industry is boot-making, and next in order of importance is agriculture, which occupies 98 per 1,000 of males over the age of 12.

Death Rate.—The number of deaths was 32—20 males and 12 females—corresponding to a death-rate of 8·3 per 1,000. The death-rate for England and Wales was 12·2 per 1,000. The ages at death according to age-groups were :—

Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	over 65 yrs.
1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	10	14

Of the 14 over 65 years, 14 were over 70, 11 over 75, and 5 over 80. Eleven of the deaths were inward transfers, and there were no outward transfers.

The death rates for previous years were :—

		Raunds		Northants		England & Wales
1916	...	11·7	...	13·33	...	14·0
1917	...	11·4	...	14·01	...	14·4
1918	...	14·3	...	15·25	...	17·6
1919	...	9·89	...	13·84	...	13·8
1920	...	10·7	...	11·09	...	12·4
1921	...	10·24	...	11·84	...	12·1
1922	...	8·8	...	11·75	...	12·9
1923	...	12·0	...	11·54	...	11·6
1924	...	10·7	...		...	12·2

The causes of death were :—

						Male	Female
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Arterio Sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	0	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	0
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
Total						20	12

Birth Rate.—The number of births was 53, 29 males and 24 females, all legitimate, giving a birth-rate of 13·8 per 1,000. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 18·3 per 1,000. Birth rates in previous years were :—

		Raunds		Northants		England & Wales
1916	...	18·5	...	17·34	...	21·6
1917	...	15·4	...	15·07	...	17·8
1918	...	14·6	...	14·34	...	17·7
1919	...	13·29	...	14·52	...	18·5
1920	...	19·02	...	22·74	...	25·4
1921	...	16·25	...	19·57	...	22·4
1922	...	14·3	...	18·12	...	20·6
1923	...	13·9	...	17·15	...	19·7
1924	...	15·6	...	...	...	18·8

Infantile Mortality.—One child died under the age of one year, the death being due to Whooping Cough. This represents an infantile mortality rate of 18·8 per 1,000 of births. In England and Wales the rate was 75 per 1,000 births. Previous rates were :—

		Raunds		Northants		England & Wales
1916	...	61·7	...	66	...	91
1917	...	32·2	...	81	...	97
1918	...	64·5	...	74	...	97
1919	...	35·08	...	80	...	89
1920	...	62·5	...	59	...	80
1921	...	48·38	...	72	...	83
1922	...	54·5	...	58	...	77
1923	...	134·0	...	61	...	69
1924	...	83·3	...	...	...	75

Infectious Disease.—The notifications of infectious disease other than Tuberculosis are found in the table :—

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	1	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0
Enteric Fever ...	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever ...	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	6	0	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	2	0	1
Erysipelas ...	4	0	0
Chickenpox ...	87	0	0
Malaria ...	1	0	0

Chickenpox was notifiable during the latter months of 1925.

A number of cases of Jaundice of an infectious nature occurred among school children during December, 1925. This is still present in the district up till April, 1926. The disease is gradual in onset, with first a general feeling of malaise and lack of appetite, then epigastric pain and vomiting precede the appearance of Jaundice. The first few cases seem to have suffered most, the temperature being higher and the drowsiness, associated with a very acid urine, were marked. A few of the children lost weight, but none were seriously ill. The urine from a number of cases was examined, but leptospira were not found in any. The blood from one boy, who had marked acidosis, agglutinated B. Paratyphoid A. Blood from other patients, some actually with the disease, some just convalescent, and some three months after convalescence, were by agglutination tests all negative to leptospira and the typhoid group of bacilli.

There is no Isolation Hospital in Raunds. All patients are treated at home.

A field in Brooks Road has been retained for the erection of marquees in the case of an outbreak of Smallpox.

No vaccination was done in this district under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

No school closures on account of infectious disease were made.

Tuberculosis.—During 1925 six Pulmonary and one other form of Tuberculosis were notified. The Pulmonary cases were 3 females, aged 28, 31 and 48 years, and 3 males, aged 18, 31 and 39 years. The other form of Tuberculosis notified was a female of 39 years suffering from Tuberculosis of bone. The deaths were of 4 males and 1 female all due to the Pulmonary disease. The ages at death of the males were 19, 21, 45 and 62, and of the female 33 years. All the deaths, with the exception of an inward transfer, were previously notified. The Tuberculosis death-rate was 1·3 per 1,000. Three patients entered sanatoria in 1925. No action was taken by the Council under Sec. 62 P.H.A., 1925.

Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops.—Mr. P. R. Thomson, M.R.C.V.S., made 58 inspections of premises, and 423 inspections of cows and heifers. He did not find any disease, and he reports that the condition of the sheds was fairly good.

The necessity for cleanliness of the cows to ensure cleanliness of the milk is, however, not yet fully understood. The quarters of the cows are often filthy.

Meat.—The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, have been satisfactorily administered. No wilful infringement of the regulations was reported. The viscera of one pig were found unfit for human consumption. The slaughter-houses in the district number :—

		In 1920		January, 1925		December, 1925
Registered	...	7	...	5	...	5
Licensed	...	0	...	0	...	0

Appended is the report of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Blackmore. I am indebted to Mr. W. E. Newman for the Meteorological Report.

A. McINNES, M.B., D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDING, DECEMBER 31st, 1925.

Owing to the fact that three officers in succession held the appointment of Sanitary Inspector during the year under review, it has been found difficult to compile an accurate report, and the statistics set out below cannot be taken as a correct indication of a year's normal work.

Mr. Broad left the District in April, and Mr. Gray, his successor, in October. I commenced work on December 7th, after an interregnum of nearly two months. My opinion is that a considerable amount of work was done which is not recorded below.

WORK DONE UNDER SUPERVISION OF INSPECTOR.

Choked drains to houses unstopped ...	...	75
Defective sanitary fittings repaired ...	...	2
Defective house roofs repaired ...	...	4
Defective yard paving repaired ...	...	2
Other defects in houses remedied ...	...	15
Defective ashbins replaced ...	...	1
Dirty houses cleansed ...	...	1
Defects in factories remedied ...	...	1
Houses inspected under Housing Acts ...	...	7

The bakehouses, slaughterhouses, and factories appear to have been kept in a satisfactory condition.

Water Supply.—No alterations have been carried out during the year. During the latter half of the year a shortage of water was experienced and some restriction had to be placed on its use. There appears to be a loss from the supply mains accountable only by leakage, and this is being investigated.

Sewage Disposal.—The works are producing an effluent which appears to be highly satisfactory.

Destruction of Rats.—During the year 743 rats have been destroyed by the Council's Ratcatcher. This is valuable work and its cost is money well spent.

F. W. BLACKMORE, M.C., M.R.S.I.

Bronze Medallist, Institution of Sanitary Engineers.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING.

Number of houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :							
(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...				0
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...				2

I.—Unfit Dwelling Houses. Inspection.

1. Total number of houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	78
2. Number of houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	6
3. Number of houses found to be unfit for human habitation	1
4. Number of houses (exclusive of sub-heading 3) not fit in all respects	30

II.—Remedy of defects without service of formal notices ... 30

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—

1. Number of Notices served	...	...	...	0
2. Houses rendered fit (a) by owners	...	...		0
(b) by Local Authority	...			0
3. Closing orders by declaration of owners	...			0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

1. Notices requiring remedy of defects	...	...	0
2. Remedied (a) by owners	...	...	0
(b) by Local Authority	...	...	0

C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14 & 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—

1. Representations as to Closing Orders	...	1
2. Closing Orders issued	...	0
3. Closing Orders determined by being rendered fit		0
4. Demolition Orders	...	0
5. Houses demolished under Demolition Orders		0

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	18	1	0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	10	0	0
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	0	0	0
Total	28	1	0

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	0	0
Want of ventilation	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0
Want of drainage of floors	0	0	0	0
Other nuisances	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Accommodation {	insufficient	0	0	0
	unsuitable or defective	3	0	0
	not separate for sexes	0	0	0
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses ...	0	0	0	0
Other offences	0	0	0	0
Total	5	5	0	0

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 1 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.

Nil.

METEOROLOGY OF RAUNDS, 1925.

An Inspected Station under the Air Ministry.

Lat. 52 deg. 20 min. N. Long. 32 min. W. Altitude 213 feet.

The outstanding features of 1925 were the drought and brilliant weather of June and the cold spell which lasted with little intermission from November 8th to December 26th. Other noteworthy features were the wet February, the wet and thundery May, and the two short hot spells in July when the shade temperature reached 91 degrees.

RAINFALL.

	Average in inches.		Actual in inches.	
January	...	1·53	...	0·88
February	...	1·43	...	1·63
March	...	1·67	...	0·90
April	...	1·36	...	1·51
May	...	2·32	...	2·94
June	...	1·85	...	0·09
July	...	2·50	...	1·17
August	...	2·70	...	1·58
September	...	1·49	...	1·97
October	...	2·50	...	2·78
November	...	2·07	...	1·55
December	...	2·37	...	2·75
		—	...	—
		23·79	...	19·75
		—		—

4·04 inches below average.

Compare with Ventnor, (I. of W.) 41·0 inches.

Wettest centre—Ardtornish, Argyleshire, 84·39 inches.

Driest centre—Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex, 18·24 inches.

The wettest year registered in Raunds was 1912 when 32·25 inches fell.

TEMPERATURES.

Warmest Day—91 degrees, July 22nd.

Warmest Night—63 degrees, July 23rd.

Coldest Day—33 degrees, December 5th.

Coldest Nights—16 degrees, December 4th and 6th.

Mean Temperature for year—48·4 degrees or 0·1 below the average.

Heaviest rainfall on one day, 1·12 inches. Rain fell on 141 days. Falls of one-twenty-fifth inches or more occurred on 108 days. Compare with Burnley, Lancashire, 214 and 161 respectively.

SUNSHINE.

Total hours 1,478·25.

The average sunshine is 1,522 hours for the year in this district.

W. E. NEWMAN, A.C.P.